

Remarks

Claims 1-2 and 4-20 remain in this application. Claim 3 is hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 16, and 18 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections--35 USC 103

Original claims 1, 5, 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada.

Original claims 2, 16, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Kadambi.

Original claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Musoll.

Original claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Musoll in further view of Spinney.

Original claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Lawler.

Original claims 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Murthy.

Original claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Murthy in further view of Voit.

Original claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada in further view of Luijten.

Original claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada and Kadambi and in further view of Spinney.

Original claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park in view of Navada, Kadambi, Spinney and in further view of Lawler.

The above rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as now amended.

Claim 1 is hereby amended and now recites as follows.

1. A method of processing a data packet, the method comprising:
receiving the data packet at a network device;
determining whether a multiple-key decision cache is hit by the data packet;
applying at least one cached action if the decision cache is hit;
processing the data packet using software routines if the decision cache is missed;
determining whether action performed by the software routines is programmable into the multiple-key decision cache; and
programming a new entry into the multiple-key decision cache if the action performed is programmable,
wherein the new entry indexes into the multiple-key decision cache, and
programming the new entry does not involve storing the data packet.

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, amended claim 1 now recites “determining whether action performed by the software routines is programmable into the multiple-key decision cache; and programming a new entry into the multiple-key decision cache if the action performed is programmable”. (Emphasis added.) These limitations are incorporated into claim 1 from original claim 3.

In regards to original claim 3 (whose limitations are now incorporated into claim 1), Examiner’s states in the office action that “Park does not teach determining whether an action by software is programmable into cache.” (Page 5, lines 1-2.) Applicants agree with this statement.

Further in regards to original claim 3, Examiner cites column 4, lines 36-40 in Musoll, which states as follows. “... steps of (a) attempting to store all incoming packets, by a first storage system, into a local packet memory (LPM) ...” and “(b)

relinquishing packets incompatible with the LPM to a second storage system”.

(Emphasis added.) Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 clearly distinguishes over this citation.

Applicants submit that the above citation to Musoll relates to storing a packet and does not read on **programming a new cache entry** relating to the packet. Programming an entry in a cache for a packet is technically very different from storing the packet.

Furthermore, claim 1 now expressly recites “wherein the new entry indexes into the multiple-key decision cache, and **programming the new entry does not involve storing the data packet.**” (Emphasis added.) Hence, claim 1 now expressly states that the data packet is not stored in programming the new cache entry. This is contrary to the disclosure of Musoll which specifically discloses using first and second storage systems to store all incoming packets.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

Claims 2 and 4-15 depend from claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 16 is an independent claim and is amended similarly as claim 1 is amended. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 16.

Claim 18 is an independent claim and is amended similarly as claim 1 is amended. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Amendment and Response to Office Action

Claims 19-20 depends from claim 18. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-20 are now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 18.

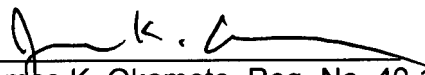
Conclusion

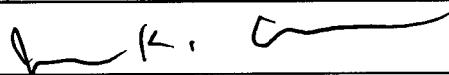
For the above-discussed reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, as hereby amended, are patentable, and that the application is now in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is also invited to call the below-referenced attorney to discuss this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: September 12, 2007


James K. Okamoto, Reg. No. 40,110
Tel: (408) 436-2111
Fax: (408) 436-2114

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence, including the enclosures identified herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. If the Express Mail Mailing Number is filled in below, then this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10.			
Signature:			
Typed or Printed Name:	James K. Okamoto	Dated:	September 12, 2007
Express Mail Mailing Number (optional):			